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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
**CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

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10 GWENDALYN DOUGLASS  
11 Plaintiff(s),  
12 v.  
13 RELIANT LIFE SHARES LLC, et al.  
14 Defendant(s).

Case No. 2:23-cv-00460-SB-AGR

**STANDING ORDER FOR  
CIVIL CASES ASSIGNED  
TO JUDGE STANLEY  
BLUMENFELD, JR.**

**[updated 8-10-22]**

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**READ THIS ORDER CAREFULLY BECAUSE IT CONTROLS THIS CASE  
AND DIFFERS IN PART FROM THE LOCAL RULES. FAILURE TO  
COMPLY MAY RESULT IN SANCTIONS.**

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21 Counsel for the plaintiff must immediately serve this Order on all parties,  
22 including any new parties to the action. If this case was removed from state court,  
23 the defendant that removed the case must serve this Order on all other parties. A  
24 hyperlinked table of contents appears below.

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### **1. COUNSEL.**

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- a. **Civility.** All counsel must immediately review and comply with the Civility and Professionalism Guidelines on Judge Blumenfeld's webpage (<http://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/honorable-stanley-blumenfeld-jr>) under Attorney Information at the bottom of the page. Failure to do so may result in sanctions.
- b. **Presence of Lead Counsel.** Only one attorney for a party may be designated as lead counsel. Lead counsel must attend all proceedings set by this Court and be prepared to address and resolve all matters within the scope of the proceeding. For proceedings not set by the Court, lead counsel are encouraged to permit junior lawyers to fully participate in court proceedings (e.g., arguing motions, examining witnesses, etc.). The Court is more likely to hear oral argument if any party files a notice at least 7 days before a scheduled hearing stating that a junior lawyer with no more than five years of experience will conduct the argument. Only one counsel may be designated to argue motions absent Court approval.

- c. **Self-Represented Parties (a.k.a. “Pro Se” Litigants).** Parties appearing in propria persona (pro se litigants) are required to comply with all local rules, including Local Rule 16 (“Pretrial Conferences; Scheduling; Management”). In this Order, the term “counsel” includes pro se litigants. Only individuals may represent themselves. A corporation or other entity must be represented by counsel; and if counsel seeks to withdraw, counsel must advise the entity of the dire consequences of failing to obtain substitute counsel before seeking withdrawal—i.e., a plaintiff entity’s case will be dismissed or a defendant entity will default. See Local Rule 83-2.3.4.

d. **Duty to Notify of Settlement.** Counsel must advise the Court immediately if the case or any pending matter has been resolved. Failure to provide timely notice of settlement may result in sanctions.

- e. **No “Notice of Unavailability.”** While the Court expects that counsel will conduct themselves professionally and will not deliberately schedule any proceeding when counsel are unavailable, a “Notice of Unavailability” has no legal effect and should not be filed.

## 2. COMMUNICATIONS WITH CHAMBERS.

Counsel shall not (1) initiate contact with the courtroom deputy clerk (CRD) by telephone or (2) contact the CRD about the status of a pending matter. Nor should counsel contact the CRD to inquire about court procedure when the answer is readily available by consulting the Local Rules and the Court's standing orders. Any appropriate inquiry directed to the CRD must be by email with a copy to all parties and a list of all counsel's email addresses and telephone numbers in the body of the email.

### 3. PLEADINGS.

**a. Service of the Complaint.** The plaintiff(s) shall promptly serve the complaint in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 and file the proofs of

1 service pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(l). Any defendant, including any  
2 “Doe” or fictitiously named defendant, not served within 90 days after  
3 the case is filed shall be dismissed pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(m).

4 **b. Removed Actions.** Any answer filed in state court must be refiled in this  
5 Court as a supplement to the Notice of Removal. Any pending motion in  
6 state court before the case was removed must be re-noticed in accordance  
7 with Local Rule 7. If a removed action contains a “form pleading” (i.e., a  
8 check-the-box pleading), the party (or parties) that filed the form  
9 pleading must file with this Court a pleading that complies with the  
10 federal rules within 30 days of the filing of the notice of removal. See  
11 Fed. R. Civ. P. 7, 7.1, 8, 9, 10, and 11. An amended complaint filed  
12 within 30 days after removal to replace a form complaint pursuant to this  
13 instruction shall be deemed an amended complaint with “the court’s  
14 leave” pursuant to Rule 15(a)(2).

15 **c. Status of Fictitiously Named Defendants.**

16 i. Plaintiff should identify and serve any fictitiously named  
17 defendant(s) before the date of the mandatory scheduling  
18 conference (MSC) held pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b).

19 ii. All Doe defendants remaining 60 days after the MSC (or on the  
20 date set forth in the scheduling order, if applicable) are dismissed  
21 by operation of this Order without further notice *unless* plaintiff  
22 requests and justifies the need for additional time in the joint report  
23 for the MSC and the Court grants an extension.

24 iii. Before moving to substitute a defendant for a Doe defendant,  
25 plaintiff must seek the consent of counsel for all defendants,  
26 including counsel for a represented Doe defendant. If denied  
27 consent, plaintiff must file a regularly noticed motion. In diversity  
28 cases, plaintiff’s motion must address whether the addition of the

1                   newly named party destroys diversity jurisdiction. *See* 28 U.S.C.

2                   § 1447(c), (e).

3                   **4. DISCOVERY.**

4                   **a. Magistrate Judge Referral.** All discovery matters are referred to the  
5                   assigned magistrate judge. All discovery documents must include the  
6                   words “DISCOVERY MATTER” in the caption to ensure proper routing.  
7                   Do not deliver Chambers copies of these documents to Judge  
8                   Blumenfeld. The decision of the Magistrate Judge shall be final, subject  
9                   to limited review requiring a showing that the decision is clearly  
10                   erroneous or contrary to law. Any party may file and serve a motion for  
11                   review within 14 days of either (i) service of a written ruling or (ii) an  
12                   oral ruling that expressly will not be followed by a written ruling. The  
13                   motion must specify which portions of the ruling are clearly erroneous or  
14                   contrary to law, supported by points and authorities. Counsel shall deliver  
15                   a conformed copy of the moving papers and responses to the Magistrate  
16                   Judge’s clerk at the time of filing.

17                   **b. Discovery Protective Orders.** Proposed protective orders for discovery  
18                   must be submitted to the assigned Magistrate Judge. Such orders should  
19                   not purport to allow, without further order of Judge Blumenfeld, the  
20                   filing under seal of pleadings or documents filed in connection with a  
21                   dispositive motion, a class certification motion, or trial before Judge  
22                   Blumenfeld. The existence of a protective order does not alone justify  
23                   the filing of pleadings or other documents under seal, in whole or in part.

24                   **5. FILING REQUIREMENTS.**

25                   **a. Text Searchability.** All documents—including pleadings, motions, and  
26                   exhibits—submitted to the Court must be text searchable (i.e., “OCR’d”).

27                   **b. Documents with Declarations, Exhibits, and Other Attachments.**

28                   Except for filings in support of motions for summary judgment (*see* MSJ

1 Standing Order), if a filed or lodged document has declarations, exhibits,  
2 or other attachments, each attachment must be filed as a separately  
3 docketed attachment to the main docket entry with a description of the  
4 attachment (e.g., Dkt. 29-1 Smith Declaration, 29-2 Ex. 1 - License  
5 Agreement, 29-3 Request for Judicial Notice). The Court may strike or  
6 decline to consider motions, stipulations, or other documents with  
7 attachments that are not filed in accordance with this Order.

8 c. **Proposed Orders.** Each party filing a motion or seeking the  
9 determination of any matter shall serve and lodge a proposed order  
10 setting forth the relief or action sought and a brief statement of the  
11 rationale for the decision with appropriate citations.

12 i. Templates. Use the “Proposed Order” or the “CMO Continuance  
13 Order” template—whichever is applicable—located on Judge  
14 Blumenfeld’s webpage under “Orders & Additional Documents.”  
15 Failure to do so may result in the striking of the request. Proposed  
16 orders should *not* contain: (1) attorney names, addresses, etc. on  
17 the caption page; (2) a footer with the document name or other  
18 information; or (3) a watermark or designation of the firm name.  
19 Proposed orders should be formatted in the same fashion as  
20 motions. *See infra* paragraph 6(c).

21 ii. Email. The Court requires strict compliance with Local Rule 5-  
22 4.4.2, which states that “a Microsoft Word copy of the proposed  
23 document, along with a PDF copy of the electronically filed main  
24 document, shall be e-mailed to the assigned judge’s generic  
25 chambers e-mail address using the CM/ECF System.” The Court  
26 will not consider a stipulation, ex parte application, or other  
27 request for relief until a compliant proposed order is received by  
28 email. A filing may be stricken for failure to timely comply.

1                   d. **Chambers Copies.** Chambers Copies (paper copies that are sent to  
2 Chambers upon electronic filing of the document) are required for the  
3 following documents only: (1) motion papers (motions, oppositions,  
4 replies, and related documents<sup>1</sup> ), including motions in limine; (2)  
5 ex parte applications for temporary restraining orders; and (3) pretrial  
6 documents (memoranda of fact and law, witness and exhibit lists, pretrial  
7 conference statement, jury instructions, verdict forms, etc.). Chambers  
8 Copies must comply with the rules below.

9                   i. **Timeliness and location.** Deliver Chambers Copies promptly to  
10 Judge Blumenfeld's mailbox outside the Clerk's Office on the 4th  
11 Floor of the First Street Courthouse. Applicable documents will not  
12 be considered until Chambers Copies are submitted. Delay in  
13 submitting such copies will delay consideration of the submission.  
14                   ii. **Exhibits.** Separate all exhibits by a tab divider on the right or  
15 bottom of the document. If the evidence exceeds 50 pages, the  
16 Chambers Copy must: (1) include a table of contents; and (2) be in  
17 a tabbed binder with each exhibit separated by a tab divider on the  
18 right or the bottom. All documents in the binder must be three-  
19 hole punched. If the evidence exceeds 200 pages, the table of  
20 contents and evidence must be placed in a Slant D-Ring binder.  
21 Binders should be no larger than 4 inches. Binders must have both  
22 a cover sheet and a spine label that includes the case name, case  
23 number, and a description of the contents.

24                   6. **GENERAL MOTION REQUIREMENTS.**

25                   a. **“Meet and Confer” Requirement.** Local Rule 7-3 requires counsel to  
26 conduct a prefiling conference “to discuss thoroughly . . . the substance

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28                   <sup>1</sup> A motion to dismiss should include a copy of the challenged pleading.

1 of the contemplated motion and any potential resolution.”

2 i. **Scope.** This requirement applies in all cases, including those with  
3 pro se litigants, and extends to all issues. If the parties are unable  
4 to fully resolve the dispute, they shall attempt to narrow the scope  
5 of the contested issue(s). Parties must meet and confer in person  
6 or by videoconference; email correspondence is insufficient. A  
7 motion not supported by the certification below may be stricken or  
8 summarily denied.

9 ii. **Certification.** The moving party *shall* include a signed certification  
10 attached to the end of the filed motion as follows:

11 *“I certify that the parties met in person or by videoconference,  
12 thoroughly discussed each and every issue raised in the  
13 motion, and attempted in good faith to resolve the motion in  
14 whole or in part.”*

15 If a nonmoving party refuses to participate in good faith, the  
16 moving party shall explain the refusal in detail.

17 iii. **Sanctions.** Failure by any party to comply in good faith with the  
18 “meet and confer” requirement shall result in an order to show  
19 cause re: sanctions—including, as appropriate, striking or denying  
20 the motion, deeming the motion unopposed, and/or awarding  
21 monetary sanctions.

22 b. **Time for Filing and Hearing Motions.** This Court hears civil motions  
23 on Fridays at 8:30 a.m.

24 i. **Holidays.** If Friday is a court holiday, select another Friday.  
25 Opposition papers due on a Friday holiday may be filed the  
26 following Monday, and the reply papers may be filed on the next  
27 Monday.

28 ii. **Closed Dates.** Hearing dates are closed at least four weeks in

1 advance, and closed hearing dates are noted on the Judge  
2 Blumenfeld's webpage A motion filed on a closed hearing date  
3 will be stricken or continued at the Court's discretion. *A party that*  
4 *waits too long and files a motion to be heard on a date that turns*  
5 *out to be unavailable risks having the motion stricken and not*  
6 *considered at all.*

7       iii. Non-Opposition. Failure to oppose a motion will likely result in  
8 the motion being granted after the opposition would have been  
9 due. *See Local Rule 7-12 (failure to timely file “may be deemed*  
10 *consent to the granting . . . of the motion”).*

11       iv. Withdrawn. If the parties resolve the issue(s) presented in a  
12 motion, by settlement or otherwise, the Court must be notified  
13 immediately to avoid unnecessary judicial work.

14       c. **Length, Footnotes, and Format of Motion Papers.**

15       i. Length. Supporting and opposing memoranda must not exceed 25  
16 pages (and 8 footnotes); and replies must not exceed 15 pages (and  
17 5 footnotes). Good cause to extend these page limitations will  
18 rarely be found. A memorandum that exceeds the allowable page  
19 length or footnote limit may be stricken.

20       ii. Footnotes. Use no more than one footnote for every three pages in  
21 any brief or other filing. Citations that support a statement in the  
22 main text must be included in the main text, not in footnotes.

23       iii. Format. Typeface and spacing shall comply with Local Rule 11-  
24 3.1.1, except that the parties are required to use only 14-point  
25 Times New Roman font. Footnotes shall be in the same font and  
26 the same size as the body of the memorandum and separated by  
27 12-point spacing.

28       iv. Reply Briefs. The purpose of a reply brief is to respond succinctly

1 to the arguments in the opposition. A reply brief should not repeat  
2 the background or legal standard contained in the motion and  
3 should not repeat arguments except to the extent necessary to  
4 respond to the opposition.

5 **d. Citations to Authority.** Any argument or statement of law not  
6 supported by legal authority may be deemed *waived or forfeited* to the  
7 extent allowed by law. The parties should comply with Bluebook  
8 formatting and the citation requirements below.

9 i. **Pin Cites.** Case citations must identify both the case cited and the  
10 specific page referenced.

11 ii. **String Cites.** Parties should not use string cites without a good  
12 reason. When using string cites, a party should include a  
13 parenthetical explanation for each cited case.

14 iii. **Legal Databases.** When citing to unpublished materials in legal  
15 databases, cite to Westlaw (*not* Lexis) whenever possible.  
16 However, parties that do not have access to Westlaw will not be  
17 penalized for citing to other sources.

18 iv. **U.S. Statutes.** Statutory references should identify with specificity  
19 the sections and subsections referenced. Citations should be to the  
20 relevant official statutory code (e.g., the U.S. Code) and should not  
21 merely reference the popular name of an act.

22 v. **Treatises, Manuals, and the Like.** Citations to treatises, manuals,  
23 and other materials should include the volume, section, and  
24 relevant pages. Attach copies if these materials are not accessible  
25 on Westlaw, especially for historical materials (e.g., older  
26 legislative history).

27 **7. SPECIFIC MOTION REQUIREMENTS.**

28 a. **Motions Pursuant to Rule 12.** Most motions to dismiss or strike,

especially motions raising alleged defects in a complaint, answer, or counterclaim that could be corrected by amendment, can be avoided if the parties confer in good faith as required by Local Rule 7-3. In general, the Court will provide leave to amend upon granting a motion to dismiss unless it is clear the complaint is not correctible. *See Chang v. Chen*, 80 F.3d 1293, 1296 (9th Cir. 1996); *see also Rosenberg Bros. & Co. v. Arnold*, 283 F.2d 406, 406 (9th Cir. 1960) (requiring “extreme liberality” in favor of amendments). If the Ninth Circuit’s “extreme liberality” standard applies to a meritoriously filed motion, the Court may summarily grant the motion with leave to amend. A good-faith “meet and confer” may avoid this costly and inefficient process. If the Court grants a motion to dismiss with leave to amend, the plaintiff must file an amended complaint within the time period specified by the Court. Failure to timely file an amended complaint will result in dismissal with prejudice.

**b Motions to Amend Pleadings.** A motion to amend the pleadings must state: (a) the effect of the amendment and (b) the page, line numbers, and wording of any proposed change or addition of material. A “redlined” version of the proposed amended pleading must be delivered to Chambers (in paper form) and to Chambers email (in electronic form using Word), indicating all additions and deletions to the prior version of the pleading. This “redlined” version also must be delivered to opposing counsel at least two hours in advance of the Local Rule 7-3 conference; and if the plaintiff later changes the delivered version, counsel will be required to meet again about the revised pleading. In addition to the requirements of the Local Rules, all amended pleadings must be serially numbered to differentiate each amendment (i.e., “First Amended Complaint,” “Second Amended Complaint”).

1                   c. **Motions for Summary Judgment.** Please refer to Judge Blumenfeld's  
2                   Standing Order re: Motions for Summary Judgment found at  
3                   <https://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/honorable-stanley-blumenfeld-jr>.

4                   d. **PLRA Exhaustion Motion.** The issue of exhaustion under the Prison  
5                   Litigation Reform Act (PLRA) must be raised at the beginning of the  
6                   litigation. *Albino v. Baca*, 747 F.3d 1162, 1170 (9th Cir. 2014). A party  
7                   seeking to obtain a judicial determination of any material fact dispute  
8                   precluding summary judgment on the exhaustion issue must file before  
9                   this Court a request for a hearing *within 14 days of the filing of the order*  
10                  *denying summary judgment*. The failure to file a timely request may be  
11                  construed as a waiver of the exhaustion issue.

12           **8. MOTION HEARINGS.**

13           a. **Remote Appearances.** Remote appearances are not permitted absent  
14           good cause shown in a declaration concurrently filed with the moving  
15           papers or the opposition. Absent a concurrent filing, a party requesting to  
16           appear remotely must submit a declaration establishing that the party is  
17           unable to appear in person due to an unanticipated and unavoidable  
18           emergency and that the party made the request promptly upon learning of  
19           the emergency.

20           b. **Submission without Argument.** The Court may take a motion off  
21           calendar if it concludes the decision will not benefit from oral argument.

22           c. **Time.** If oral argument is permitted, the parties will have a total of 20  
23           minutes, divided equally between the sides, unless the Court states  
24           otherwise. If the Court believes that the matter warrants less or more  
25           time, it will advise counsel at the hearing.

26           d. **Tentatives.** The Court often issues written tentative rulings and makes  
27           them available (i) the afternoon before the hearing between 2:00 p.m. and  
28           6:00 p.m. (on Judge Blumenfeld's webpage) or (ii) 30 minutes before the

1 hearing (in the courtroom). A tentative ruling does not represent the final  
2 decision of the Court, and the parties are *strictly prohibited* from filing it  
3 as an exhibit in any case.

4 **e. Oral Argument.** If a tentative has issued, the parties should be prepared  
5 to explain why the analysis is correct or incorrect. Also, the Court often  
6 tests its reasoning by asking questions and expects counsel to respond  
7 directly and candidly.

8 **f. Settlement.** Counsel *must* notify the Court at least two weeks before the  
9 scheduled hearing if the parties are conducting settlement discussions  
10 that may render the motion moot and *must* notify the Court immediately  
11 if a settlement is reached. A belated notice of settlement wastes scarce  
12 judicial resources, and will subject the offending parties to sanctions—  
13 and it may also result in the release of the tentative ruling.

14 **9. EX PARTE APPLICATIONS.**

15 A party seeking ex parte relief, including a temporary restraining order, must  
16 comply with Local Rule 7-19.

17 **a. Notice.** The applicant must (1) notify the other party (or parties) that  
18 opposing papers are to be filed no later than 48 hours following service or by 3:00  
19 p.m. on the first court day after the service, whichever is later, and (2) advise the  
20 Court in a declaration whether any party opposes the application (*see* Local Rule 7-  
21 12.1). If an opposing party did not disclose its position to the applicant before the  
22 application is filed, the opposing party should advise the CRD by email as soon as  
23 possible whether it intends to oppose the application.

24 **b. Submission.** The application will not be considered until a Chambers  
25 Copy has been provided. Once the application is submitted for decision, the Court  
26 will rule on the papers unless it elects to set a hearing. Do not contact chambers  
27 about the status.

28 **c. No Tolling of Obligation.** An application or stipulation does not serve

1 to toll, or relieve a party of, an underlying obligation (e.g., a soon-to-expire  
2 deadline). Parties should not assume that an unopposed ex parte application or  
3 stipulation will be granted; and a last-minute application or stipulation that is  
4 denied may result in a party's defaulting on the underlying obligation.

5 **10. CONTINUANCES.**

6 The Court grants continuances of pretrial and trial deadlines only on a timely  
7 showing of good cause. The Court applies the same standard of good cause to all  
8 extension requests—whether opposed, unopposed, or jointly requested.

9 **a. Good cause.** Good cause requires a specific, detailed, and non-  
10 conclusory showing of diligence from the outset of the case, describing:  
11 (1) all relevant work previously done (including when each item was  
12 completed), (2) all relevant work that remains to be done, (3) why the  
13 remaining work could not previously have been done (including efforts  
14 made to complete each remaining item), and (4) why the amount of time  
15 requested is needed to complete the remaining work.

16 **b. Diligence.** The Case Management Order (CMO) that the parties will  
17 receive following the Mandatory Scheduling Conference (MSC) contains  
18 an attachment with information that must be submitted in table form in  
19 showing diligence. Diligence generally will *not* be found when a party  
20 opts for strategic staging of discovery (or other tasks) or in-person  
21 depositions that prevent completion within the existing deadline.  
22 Moreover, a desire to engage in settlement discussions does not  
23 constitute good cause to extend existing deadlines. The parties are  
24 strongly encouraged to agree to exchange initial disclosures promptly  
25 and to actively commence discovery before the MSC.

26 **b. Proposed Order.** The parties must complete and submit the CMO  
27 Continuance Order template on the Judge Blumenfeld's webpage under  
28 "Orders & Additional Documents." Please follow the highlighted

1 directions at the end of the document. File the Proposed Order and  
2 submit an electronic Word copy to Judge Blumenfeld's Chambers email  
3 (SB\_Chambers@cacd.uscourts.gov). Failure to use and properly submit  
4 the CMO Continuance Order Template will result in the striking or  
5 summary denial of the request.

6 **c. Denied with Prejudice.** Denial of an extension request, including  
7 summary denial, is *with prejudice*. The parties should therefore present  
8 all available information showing that the outstanding discovery or other  
9 litigation tasks cannot be completed within the existing deadlines despite  
10 all reasonable diligence from the outset of the case. A party is *not*  
11 permitted to resubmit a denied extension request with information that  
12 was either previously submitted or previously available.

13 \* \* \*

14 *Failure to comply with the procedural requirements* above—including the use  
15 and proper submission of the table in the MSC Attachment and the CMO  
16 Continuance Order Template—may result in the extension request being  
17 stricken or summarily denied. An improper resubmission of a denied  
18 extension request may result in sanctions.

19 **11. CLASS ACTIONS.**

20 If this action is a putative class action, the parties are to act diligently and  
21 begin discovery immediately, so that the motion for class certification can be filed  
22 expeditiously. A motion for class certification must be filed no later than 120 days  
23 from the date initially set for the scheduling conference, unless the Court orders  
24 otherwise.

25 **12. ERISA CASES (BENEFIT CLAIMS).**

26 The parties may receive a mandatory scheduling conference order as a matter  
27 of course. Because the ordinary pretrial and trial schedule does not apply to these  
28 ERISA cases, the parties need only submit a joint status report identifying any

1 special issues that should be considered. The parties should proceed with the  
2 preparation of the administrative record and briefing without delay upon service of  
3 the complaint. If necessary, the Court will hear motions to determine the standard  
4 of review, whether discovery will be permitted, and the scope of the administrative  
5 record. Counsel are discouraged from filing motions for summary judgment or  
6 partial summary judgment for a merits determination. *See Kearney v. Standard*  
7 *Insurance Co.*, 175 F.3d 1084,1095 (9th Cir. 1999) (en banc) (noting the difference  
8 in procedures between Rule 56 and Rule 52). A court trial, ordinarily limited to oral  
9 argument on the administrative record, will be scheduled within six months from  
10 the filing of the original complaint, unless good cause for additional time is shown  
11 in the status report. If the Court concludes that the decision would not benefit from  
12 oral argument, the matter may be submitted for decision on the papers.

13. **BANKRUPTCY APPEALS.**

14 Counsel must comply with the Notice Regarding Appeal from Bankruptcy  
15 Court issued at the time the appeal is filed in the district court. The matter is  
16 deemed under submission on the filing of the appellant's reply brief. The Court  
17 considers bankruptcy appeals on the papers and usually does not set these matters  
18 for hearing.

19. **CONSENT TO MAGISTRATE JUDGE.**

20 The parties may consent to have a Magistrate Judge preside over the entire  
21 case, including trial. The parties are free to select from among all Magistrate  
22 Judges available for this purpose, not just the Magistrate Judge assigned to this  
23 case. Please consult the Central District website <https://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/judges-requirements/court-programs/voluntary-consent-magistrate-judges>) for the  
24 list of available Magistrate Judges and submit the consent form.  
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1       **15. SANCTIONS FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY.**

2           If, without satisfactory explanation, counsel fail to file the required Joint Rule  
3           26(f) Report or the required pretrial documents, fail to appear at any scheduled  
4           proceeding, or otherwise fail to comply with judicial orders or rules, the Court shall  
5           take any action it deems appropriate, including: (i) dismissal of the case for failure  
6           to prosecute, if the failure occurs on the part of the plaintiff; (ii) striking the  
7           answer resulting in default if such failure occurs on the part of the defendant;  
8           and/or (iii) imposing monetary sanctions against the offending party and counsel.

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10           IT IS SO ORDERED.

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13 Dated: January 24, 2023



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14           Stanley Blumenfeld, Jr.  
15           United States District Court Judge

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